

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
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SMALL BUSINESS

March 11, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

For several years, I have secured congressionally directed funding through the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill for the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) to run a program called Skills Iowa. The purpose of the program is to provide students with online learning and assessments tools, and school districts across the state have reported to me that it is working very well. Demand for the program is high; Skills Iowa is currently used by teachers in 300 school buildings in 115 Iowa school districts.

I recently learned of allegations that one or more staff members at the IASB may have engaged in fraud and/or mismanagement of funds. I have no reason at this time to believe that any such activities, if they occurred, involved or affected Skills Iowa or its Federal funds. However, I want to be sure that is the case. Therefore, I ask that you would look into this matter and, if warranted, direct the Inspector General to investigate whether any Federal funds intended for the implementation of Skills Iowa were misused or misdirected by the IASB.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and would be happy to provide any more information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator